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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Director brings on-board new deputy director

INDIANAPOLIS (June 26, 2018) – The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) is pleased to announce Heather Kestian as deputy director of strategic solutions and agency transformation.

In this position, Kestian will manage the oversight of federal compliance requirements, grant reporting and grant applications according to federal guidelines and she will lead the program improvement plan (PIP) planning and implementation process for the agency. She will also oversee the agency's continuous quality improvement efforts.

Kestian will be responsible for the creation and reporting of executive-level performance metrics. She will oversee DCS' research analysts who evaluate the necessary data to assess the impact of system interventions in improving outcomes for Hoosier children and families.

"I'm excited for the opportunity because we have endless possibilities to positively impact the lives of children and families in Indiana by improving child welfare practice," Kestian said. "We know there will always be challenges in the child welfare arena, but DCS is poised to facilitate positive change with the assistance of our dedicated staff, stakeholders and community members."

Kestian has been with DCS nearly 10 years in a variety of roles, most recently as the assistant deputy director. She previously worked as the Collaborative Care field director, Johnson County local office director, administrative law judge and central office staff attorney, and staff attorney for the Bartholomew County office. Prior to her positions within DCS, Kestian worked at the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office, University of Toledo College of Law Legal Clinic and private firm Gallon, Takacs, Boissoneault & Schaffer.

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About Indiana DCS: The Indiana Department of Child Services protects children from abuse and neglect and works to ensure their financial support. Indiana Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 800.800.5556. Child Support Customer Service Kidsline: 800.840.8757 or 317.233.5437. www.in.gov/dcs